Registration fee for patients

4721. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all patients who visit the OPD of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata for treatment are charged a registration fee of Rupees 10 per patient per visit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and since when the fee is being charged;

(c) whether Government are aware that the fee is a burden for most of the patients who are poor and cannot offered to pay it;

(d) if so, whether it is proposed to withdraw the fee taking into the account that the OPD services in all major hospitals everywhere are free; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A nominal registration fee of Rs. 10/- per patient is being charged from the general patients towards consultancy and medicine in the teaching hospital of the National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Kolkata. This is considered essential to improve the hospital care facilities. The registration fee is being charged *w.e.f.* 01.01.2005. No. registration fee, however, is being charged from the cases identified for research.

(d) There is no proposal to withdraw the registration fee. The Government is also not aware of the fact that all major hospitals provide OPD services including medicines, free of cost.

(e) The resources generated by the nominal charge of Rs. 10/- per patient excluding the research cases will be utilized to improve the patient care facilities in the hospital.

Trauma centres in the country

†4722. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether trauma centres are available in India;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would consider to establish trauma centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is basically for the State Governments to provide all required health care facilities including trauma

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.